

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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O 221618Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0657
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO U.S. RESPONSE TO ISRAELI ANSWERS

SUMMARY. PRESS HIGHLIGHTS U.S. "REGRET" THAT ISRAEL
DID NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS "FULLY". AKHBAR CALLS FOR
"CLEAR AND DECISIVE" U.S. STAND DURING NEXT STAGE. HODA
TEWFIK SAYS EGYPT FOLLOWING "LONG-TERM" POLICY AND PROBLEM
NOW BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL. ISRAEL TRYING TO AVOID
AMERICAN PROPOSAL. GOE-INSPIRED MEDIA TREATMENT INDICATES
GOE PLEASED, BUT NOW EXPECTS U.S. STATEMENT TO BE FOL-
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LOWED BY CONCRETE ACTIONS TO REVIVE PEACE PROCESS. END
SUMMARY.

1. PRESS JUNE 22 HIGHLIGHTS U.S. "REGRET" THAT ISRAEL'S
RESPONSE "DOES NOT FULLY RESPOND" TO U.S. QUESTIONS AND
HODDING CARTER STATEMENTS THAT U.S. CONSULTING WITH BOTH
EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO DETERMINE NEXT STEPS, INCLUDING

POSSIBILITY OF A VANCE OR ATHERTON VISIT. PRESS REPORTS INFORMED "AMERICAN SOURCES" SAY A NUMBER OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO DEAL WITH ME PEACE TALKS WILL ACCOMPANY VP MONDALE TO ISRAEL, INCLUDING ASST SEC SAUNDERS.

2. AKHBAR COMMENTARY WELCOMED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN EFFORTS TO "REMOVE OBSTACLES IMPLANTED BY ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE" BUT BELIEVES U.S. STAND DURING NEXT STAGE MUST BE "CLEAR AND DECISIVE": CLEAR REGARDING PRINCIPLES OF JUST PEACE, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND DECISIVE IN "FACING UP TO ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE". ISRAELI LOGIC IS MISLEADING ISRAELI PEOPLE AND PUSHING SITUATION TOWARD WAR. AKHBAR HAS "NO DOUBT" U.S. POSSESSES MEANS TO CHANGE ISRAELI "LOGIC".

3. GUMHURIYYA'S HODA TEWFIK COMMENTS THAT EGYPT IS FOLLOWING A LONG-TERM POLICY. PROBLEM IS NOW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S., ISRAEL AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, AND WITHIN ISRAEL ITSELF. ACCORDING TO TEWFIK, WASHINGTON COULD INTERVENE IF MATTERS CAME TO DEADLOCK BUT USG HAS NO COMPLETE SCHEME FOR SOLVING PROBLEM. ALL IT COULD DO IS PROPOSE IDEAS TO BRING TWO SIDES CLOSER AND SHE EXPECTS THIS IS WHAT U.S. WILL TRY TO DO. SHE ALSO REPORTS THAT SHE LEARNED FROM AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT AMONG "FACTORS" WHICH MUST BE STRESSED IN CONTACTS BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. AND ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE: (A) ISRAEL MUST MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY AND MUST ANNOUNCE HER INTENTIONS RE SOVEREIGNTY OF WEST BANK AND (B) U.S. CONSIDERS TIME FACTOR SO THAT "DEVELOPMENT CAN OCCUR BEFORE OCTOBER". ISRAEL WILL SEEK TO AVOID ANY AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

4. TEWFIK RIDICULES ISRAELI ANSWERS, SAYING THEY "BELITTLE" INTELLIGENCE OF AMERICANS. HER COMMENTARY ALSO REFLECTS CONCERN THAT BEGIN SELF-RULE PROPOSAL WILL SIMPLY MEAN ISRAEL WILL SEIZE "WHATEVER ARAB LAND IS LEFT" IN WEST BANK AND GAZA IN FIVE YEARS AND WILL CARRY OUT POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHIC CHANGES TO "OBLITERATE" EXISTENCE OF PALESTINE.

5. PAPERS ALSO COVER PROMINENTLY SADAT'S CRONKITE INTERVIEW, HIGHLIGHTING HIS STATEMENTS THERE NO BENEFIT TO SUMMIT MEETING WITH BEGIN WHO IS MEMBER OF ISRAELI "OLD GUARD"; INITIATIVE WILL NOT DIE; AND HE IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND EXPECTING NEW PROPOSALS FROM HIM.

6. COMMENT: OFFICIALLY GUIDED PRESS TREATMENT DEMON-

STRATES THAT ONCE AGAIN, DESPITE EARLY APPREHENSIONS,
GOE PLEASED WITH U.S. RESPONSE TO LATEST EXAMPLE OF ISRAE-
LI "INTRANSIGENCE". OUR REACTION HAS, OF COURSE, ALSO
INCREASED EXPECTATION THAT U.S. WILL FOLLOW UP WITH
CONCRETE ACTIONS TO REVIVE STALLED PEACE PROCESS.
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